

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have filed with the instant RCE application a petition to suspend action for three months. It is the intention of Applicants' representative to interview the examiner in charge of the above application during this three month period so as to discuss the claims as submitted in the instant Preliminary Amendment. It is believed that the claims as amended herein define over the prior art for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

The present invention as claimed is a "closed loop approach" to the computer design of business methods. From a graphical process design on a computer, the method according to the invention develops, simultaneously and integrated, the runtime process application that actually executes the designed process. This runtime application is displayed in the same way as the graphical design was done so that no "translation" by the user becomes necessary. The user need not have the designed process in his memory and compare it with the displayed, runtime process, but sees immediately the implemented process in the graphical design as he/she has it originally designed. Thus, process design and process execution are much more closely linked than heretofore. The invention is not taught by Boden or Bimson US 2002/0046244, as the examiner also agrees. In addition, it is not taught by Martin's "Principles..." The cited section, Martin page 287, lines 22 ff., is worded "Building systems with an interpreter is highly desirable so that the developer can immediately run what he creates and repeatedly modify and evolve it." This is no more than an object. There is one significant difference compared to the present invention. An "interpreter" translates or transforms a sequence of instructions into another language so that the result of the

"interpretation" has a form different from the original. And this is exactly what the present invention intends to avoid. Contrary to Martin, the present invention provides a solution; without any transformation, and directly creates a run-time implementation of the designed process, using the same set of graphical building blocks used in the design mode.

In addition to the above, the transformation-less method according to the invention allows a much easier and more direct monitoring and control of an implemented process. Because there is a one-to-one relation between design and implementation, control is simplified and amendments are easily executed. This "closes the loop" in a single language. This is a tremendous advantage for the user. Again, neither Boden, nor Bimson, nor Martin, alone or in combination, teach this approach or give a hint in this direction.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the claims as pending clearly define over the prior art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully solicited.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

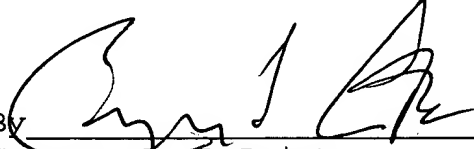
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Applicants enclose herewith a check in the amount of \$580.00 to cover the fee for a one (1) month extension of time request, petition fee and an RCE application.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mailstop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on October 13, 2004


Antoinette Sullo